Oilseeds during the year 2002-03 is 69.9 lakh tonnes as against the target of 111.0 lakh tonnes. The shortfall in production of oilseeds has been due to severe drought conditions during the current year.

(d) In order to increase the oilseed production in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the scheme financial assitance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhyzobium culture and micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.C.A.R.

Joint trade by Russia and India

1088. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to boost flagging bilateral trade, India and Russia have agreed to explore joint possibilities of regional trade and economic co-operation agreements with other countries in harmony with their respective national interests;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement reached in this regard between the two countries; and

(c) to what extent efforts have been made to improve the trade with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) A Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation was signed on 4th December 2002 by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russain Federation. *Inter-alia*, it has been stated that "the two Governments will jointly explore possibilities of regional trade and economic cooperation arrangements with other countries in a manner that is in harmony with their respective national interests."

(b) There is no specific proposal under consideration in this regard.

(c) Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve the trade with other countries which include:

- promotion of dialogue including discussions at the highest level;
- constant review of bilateral trade at the Government level through Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-Group meetings.
- promotion of direct business contacts by way of exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of and participation in exhibitions, fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

Export of human hairs

1089. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual earning from the export of human hairs;

(b) the import and export policy of Government in this regard;

(c) the names of the countries to whom exports are made ;

(d) whether it is a fact that much of the raw human hairs are being imported by China from India for making various products like wigs, etc; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tap the overseas markets in order to enhance the export of human hairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The annual exports of human hair and its products is of the order of 33 million US Dollars;

(b) There are no specific restrictions on import and export of human hairs and can be done freely;

(c) China, U.S.A., Hong Kong, and Tunisia are among the top importing countries;

(d) Yes Sir. China is the largest importer of raw human hairs from India; and